

REMARKS

Claim 10 is canceled. Claims 1 through 9 are as originally submitted and remain in the case.

The following issues were raised by the Examiner and are herein addressed by Applicant:

1.-3. and 5. Applicant restricts his application to the invention described by Claims 1-9 and elects same for prosecution.

4. Applicant respectfully suggests that Species I is more fully identified in figs. 7-9. Applicant concurs that Species II is identified by figs. 10-12. Applicant further respectfully suggests that Claims 1-4 and 9 are generic, whereas all five such claims may be found in either Species I or Species II.

Applicant elects Species I for prosecution on the merits if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Species I is minimally defined by Claims 1 and 5, and optionally by one or more of Claims 2, 3, 4, 6, and/or 9 in addition to Claims 1 and 5.

Applicant respectfully requests that should any generic claim be allowed, Species II be considered for prosecution on the merits. Species II is minimally defined by Claims 1 and 7, and optionally by one or more of Claims 2, 3, 4, 8, and/or 9 in addition to Claims 1 and 7.

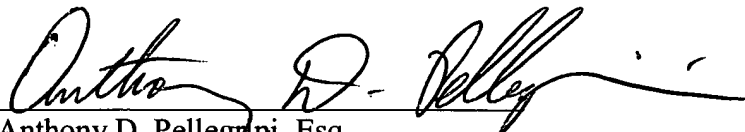
Applicant concurs that Species I and Species II are patentably distinct.

6. Applicant notes the examiner's contact information.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully suggests that the elections and amendment to the claims set forth herein place the claimed invention in order for allowance. Allowance of the present application therefore is in order, and is requested.

Dated this 30th day of July, 2004, in Bangor, Maine.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony D. Pellegrini", is written over a horizontal line.

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